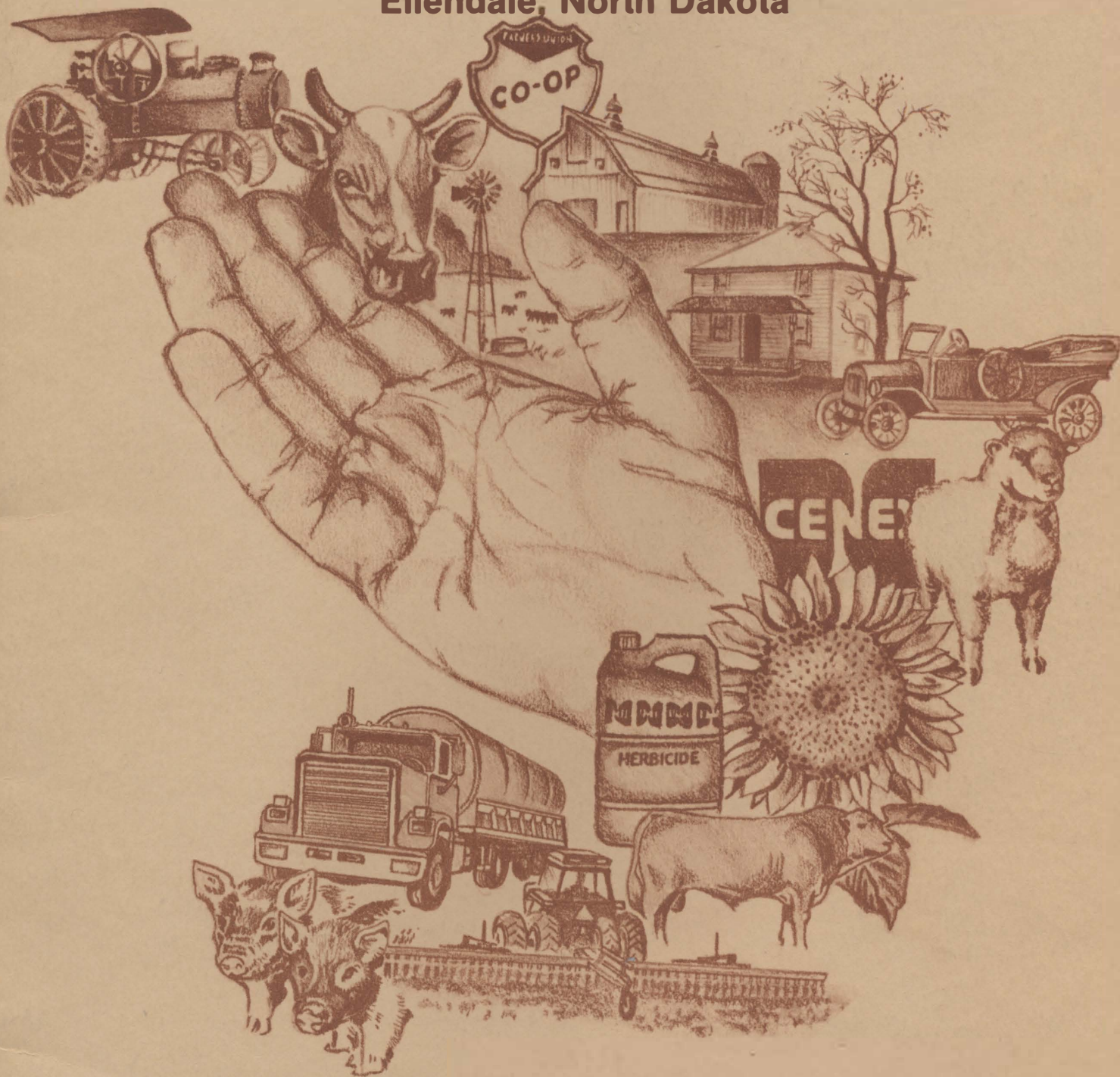
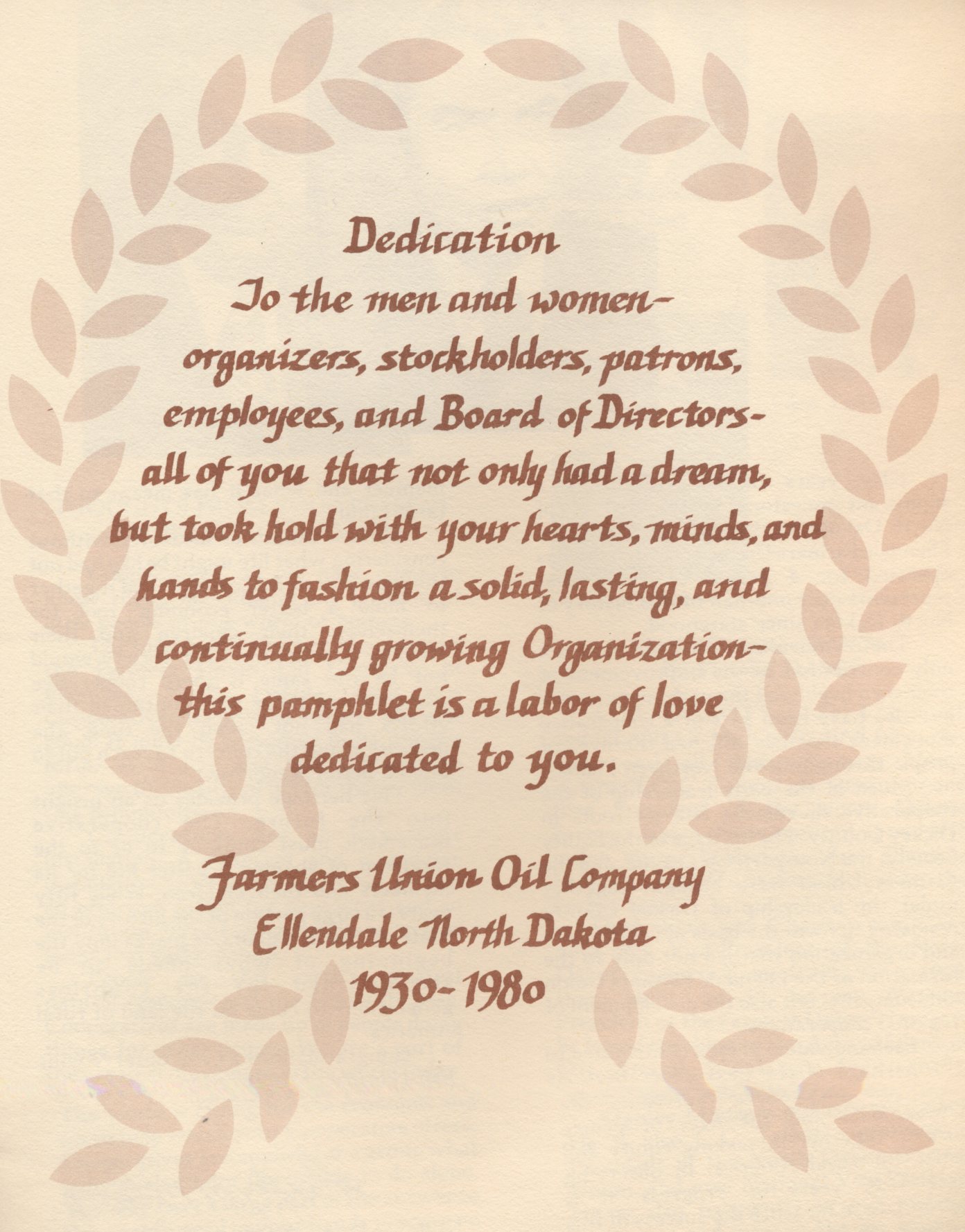


IT'S IN YOUR HANDS

FARMERS UNION OIL COMPANY
Ellendale, North Dakota



50th Anniversary
1930 - 1980



Dedication

*To the men and women-
organizers, stockholders, patrons,
employees, and Board of Directors-
all of you that not only had a dream,
but took hold with your hearts, minds, and
hands to fashion a solid, lasting, and
continually growing Organization-
this pamphlet is a labor of love
dedicated to you.*

*Farmers Union Oil Company
Ellendale North Dakota
1930-1980*



Fifty years of cooperation is a significant milestone in the history of North Dakota. With this observance, the Ellendale Farmers Union Oil Company has operated for a period of years that represents over one-half of this history of North Dakota since statehood.

The members of this co-op have not only contributed to the improvement of their own livelihood through cooperation, but also have been part of a cooperative movement that has touched the lives of people throughout the Northern Plains.

Much of the early leadership of the cooperative movement had its roots in Dickey County. The heritage of the Equity Society, the Non-partisan League, and the Farmers Union were brought together under the leadership of Dickey County residents to form the basis of cooperation and organization that led not only to the formation of the Ellendale Farmers Union Oil Company, but also the development of regional cooperatives.

Each individual person contributed to the heritage of the next generation. As such, this cooperative represents the achievements and the lives of people working together in seeking equity and justice for rural America. In observing these fifty years of progress, it is appropriate to measure the success of this business in terms of each individual

member and what it has meant to that farm family.

Success cannot be measured without considering what life might be like had not the founders of this co-op joined together to build a better economic tool for themselves, their children and their farming community. Our society would not be the same if these cooperative pioneers and those who continued their efforts had not taken the time, the dedication and the concern to reach out to build a better tomorrow.

This heritage provides us an insight into the future. The cooperative movement must continue to be in the forefront of shaping a better life for its members and their children. While fifty years is a large portion of the history of the State of North Dakota, it marks only the beginning of what needs to be accomplished for the countless generations to come on the land of rural America.

Congratulations as you observe your half-century of cooperation.

Stanley M. Moore

NORTH DAKOTA FARMERS UNION
Stanley M. Moore, President



THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PRESENT OIL BOARD CHAIRMAN

Cooperatives, as we have come to know them, do enhance the position of little people in this world of bigness.

The formula on which the founders of the Farmers Union Oil Company of Ellendale, North Dakota, built this Cooperative has proved to be right and good. It must be preserved in its present form, as it has and will continue to improve the quality of life for the people in this community.

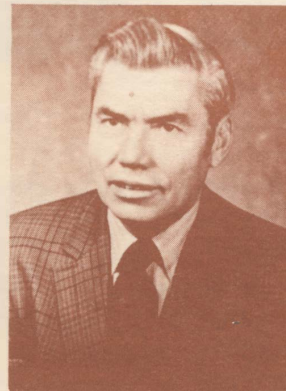
Cooperatives are an important installation. A different and innovative installation at its inception, it has proved an effective forum for new ideas and an institution encouraging family as well as individual participation.

People are this earth's greatest natural resource and the family its base. Cooperatives are made up of people doing things for other people. We are a part of the greatest movement in the world today. The world is crying for the economic and social help which your Cooperative offers. Cooperatives accomplish for a group what individuals find it impossible to do alone. You may have a large part of the answer to the world's need in your hands — spare no effort to guard it.

Herb Pomplun



C. C. Talbott



Stanley Moore



Glen Talbott

"THERE WERE GIANTS IN THOSE DAYS"

C. C. TALBOTT, GLEN TALBOTT and STANLEY MOORE — All from this area, and all three Farmers Union "Giants"! C. C. Talbott was organizer and first President of the North Dakota Farmers Union. He was one of, if not *THE* prime mover behind the first Ellendale Farmers Union Oil Station. He lived in the Forbes area.

Then there was Charlie's son, Glen, who was Vice-President of the North Dakota Farmers Union from 1937 to 1961, then went on to become National President of the Farmers Union. He was to be found speaking to the Annual Ellendale Oil Board Meetings frequently, encouraging and inspiring.

Stanley Moore is our current "giant". He is also C.C. Talbott's grandson — President of the North Dakota Farmers Union, and now National Vice President. He is also frequently in our midst to encourage and inform. We are proud of our "Giants"!

THE MANAGERS SPEAK



Floyd A. Martilla
1934-1966

Reflecting back many years — there seemed to be a similarity between the Farmers Union Oil Company of Ellendale and myself, in that we were both small — but through the loyalty of patrons and directors and managers, the Oil Company has grown to great heights, and I am still small in stature, but proud to have been a part in the growth and success it has attained today.

Having been an employee from the early "dirty 30's" through the mid-60's, I had many trials and tribulations that had to be worked out, but as the old adage goes, "Where there's a will there's a way," and to be sure, look where you are today.

Congratulations on your Golden Anniversary, and I wish to commend the patrons, managers and directors who preceded me, as well as those who followed my tenure. Good luck!



Leo McCloskey
1966-1978

As a family we came to Ellendale in 1967 and left in 1978. Before coming to Ellendale we lived in Wilton, and for approximately 18 years I was manager there. We were very happy to be a part of the Farmers Union Oil Company of Ellendale, and the successes we have had we regard as hard work from our faithful employees, and also we stepped into the footsteps of a very good manager. I, as an individual, learned many things from a sound Board of Directors. Many decisions that were made were not always in agreement, but always in the best interests of the Oil Company, the employees and the stockholders. Some of the highlights that may have been accomplished in my term of duty were getting bulk and liquid fertilizer established in the community, updating the storage of petroleum, using two-way radios for better service and building the farm

store and self-service-station acquisition. I give credit to the patrons for all of the increased growth while I was there.

I believe Ellendale and the surrounding community will never have to take a back step to any other community. Again I say, we are proud to have had the opportunity to live and get acquainted there. I do not really know how to explain our appreciation of the community. Any disagreements we had were minor to the good things of the community. The Company has a good relationship with the business people of Ellendale who are also to be commended for the things they strive to get done for the community as a whole.



Arnold Burmeister
1979-

Fifty years of service — isn't that a great accomplishment? You can feel very proud of this. You have survived fifty years under one ownership. How many companies can say that? This makes me, as a short-term manager, feel proud to have the

opportunity of working for and with people with that kind of record — especially now that you are celebrating your anniversary.

I face what every other manager faces — good times and problem times, but with people like you as working partners, I cannot help feeling that the problems will be solved to everyone's benefit and the good times will outweigh the bad ones.

One example I feel we can be proud of is that in 1979 your Company was the fourth largest purchaser from CENEX in North Dakota. This shows me that the people in and around Ellendale do indeed believe in and use their Co-op.

I know you will continue to stick together, support your business, talk it up and always be ready to fight to maintain the cooperative way of doing business — "of the people, for the people, and by the people." This way only will cooperatives continue to flourish. I am proud of you.



Present Employees

FIRST ROW-Annette Mastel, Mary Veland, Donna Johnson, Paulet Kiefer

SECOND ROW-Deadre Albertson, Marie Smith, Colleen Rithmiller, Ella Wallace

THIRD ROW-Pete Groves, Albert Wallenvein, Ida Nishek, Jean Hill

FOURTH ROW-Robert Radtke, Ray Aman, Louie Ketterling, Gordon Barrett, Arnold Burmeister

FIFTH ROW-Norman Hagen, Roy Fuchs, LeRoy Robb, Leonard Messner, Phil Burmeister, Robert Stairs

NOT PICTURED-Sheila Brauer, Tim Anderson, Tony Thares

Marie Smith

In the 15 years that I have worked for this Cooperative, many changes and much growth has taken place. It took good leadership, which we had, and the loyalty of the people at the grassroots level to achieve this.

Employment
1955-1964 N.D. Farmers Union
1965-1980 Ellendale Farmers Union Oil



HISTORY

Cooperatives of different kinds have been around since the 1800's, but the ability to turn these cooperatives into a concrete organization which would work for the farmer seemed peculiarly adapted to rest easily on the shoulders of the farmers of North Dakota. The cemented - finished - product resulted in an organization based on the philosophical concept of individuals working together for the mutual benefit or common good of the group and society. It was in the hands of the farmers, and those calloused and hard-working hands fashioned an organization out of hopes and dreams which is today the wide-spread, farm-based, growing organization — the Farmers Union.

This is the story of an integral part of that Organization - The Farmers Union Oil Company of Ellendale, N.D.

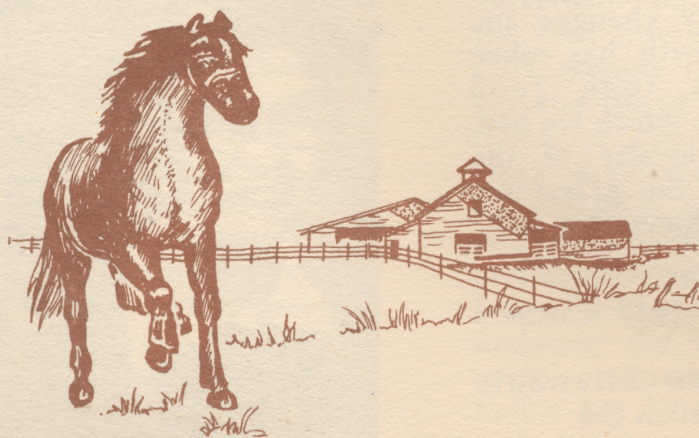
It was in 1926-27 that the Farmers Union, having merged with the Northwest Producers Alliance, set up "The Northwest Organizing Committee" composed of Bill Thatcher, C. C. Talbot of Forbes, N.D., and A. W. Ricker to recruit members. C. C. Talbot was a key figure in the Ellendale Farmers Union Oil Company as long as he lived. He talked and visited and talked some more, and it bore fruit.

On February 8, 1930, O. M. Stucker and J. E. D. Brown called a meeting in the courthouse "to formulate plans and means to start an Oil Station on the Farmers Union plan." The meeting was called to

order by L. H. Byer and H. J. Oberman was appointed temporary Secretary-Treasurer. A petition was circulated to "get subscriptions of stock," and thirty-four people signed up at that time. Par value of stock was \$25 per share and the new company was capitalized at \$20,000. Temporary directors were: L. H. Byer, George Hatfield, D. D. Moore, Luther Leet, William Hokana and A. J. Jensen.

Drouth, dust storms, shortage of stock feed, grasshoppers, depression prices for crops or no market at all, were all facets of the economic climate in the "dirty thirties." Dr. Elwyn Robinson in his *History of North Dakota* says that in 1933 the average per capita personal income was only \$145. Foreclosures on mortgages and loss of farms were commonplace. Between 1930 and 1940 the average value of an acre of land fell from \$22 to \$12, and between 1930 and 1944 possibly one-third of North Dakota families lost their farms by foreclosure. After 1934, from one-third to nearly one-half of North Dakota people were on relief! Grim? You bet it was!

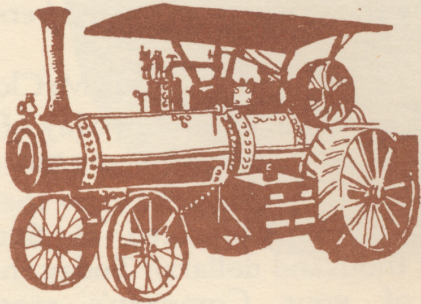
This, then, was the situation when C. C. Talbot and others began approaching farmers with the cooperative idea. He talked about an organization where there would be strength in numbers and a basic forum from which their thoughts and plans might become a reality. He talked and they listened. The resulting "grease pit" is now a large, modern gasoline, oil and shop facility; a propane facility; a bulk and liquid fertilizer facility; a farm products store, with a well-equipped office using a computer and having a large meeting room with kitchen. Built last, but very important, a self-service facility. From the hands of that first temporary Board of Directors in 1930, the stockholders and employees of that grim time — the torch has been passed through many hands, and now — fifty years later — the torch burns even more brightly and there are untold numbers of hands waiting to grasp it.



SKETCHES IN THE HISTORY OF GROWTH

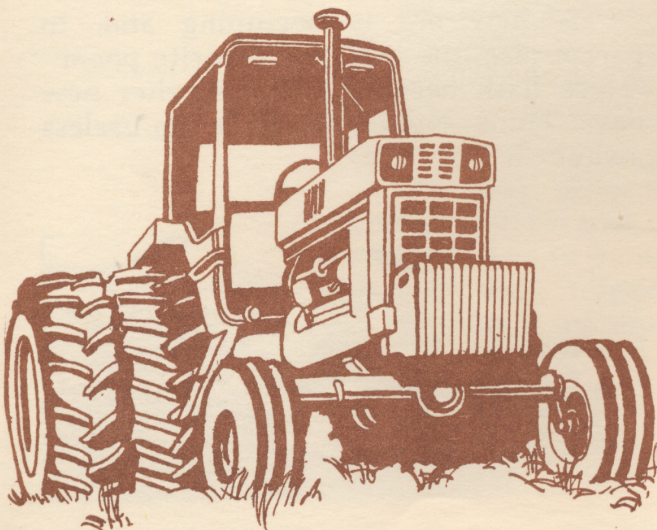
THE BUSINESSMEN BOUGHT STOCK

George Van Horn	Charles Robertson
Paul Schroeder	G. L. Stucker
Floyd Randall	D. J. Jenkins
Clifford O'Neil	Richard Rowe
F. J. Graham	M. H. Pettel
Charles E. Davis	James M. Austin
Edward Wolfe	H. F. Bjornstad
B. W. Crandall	Joe Townsend
J. P. Kessler	Frank Callan



LIVING STOCKHOLDERS

Name	Stock Certificate No.
Mark Bobbe	56
Philip Yeager	83
Louis Fleming	84
Albert Brandenberger	89
J. F. Maly	91
Alfred Kalbus	108
Theodore Wirch	115
L. H. Byer	5



Between February 8, 1930, and February 18, 1939, there were three meetings and a lot of work by the temporary Board. With Mr. Francis Ingerson, representative of the Farmers Union Central Exchange, the Board examined bulk equipment and measured various possible building sites. They finally decided to lease the corner across the street west from Stolp Garage and Machine Shop which was owned by C. M. and St. Paul Railroad.

March 22, 1930, the stockholders met and elected A. J. Jensen, Luther Leet, L. H. Byer, George Hatfield, William Fleming, William Hokana and H. E. Jury to the Board of Directors. By-laws and constitution were adopted. They collected \$1,068.80 in cash and checks and \$473.75 in notes. C. C. Talbot spoke, and the Minutes state he spoke for one and a half hours!

H. J. Oberman was first manager; Oscar Hatfield and Levi West were the first truck drivers.

April 5, 1930 the Board voted to build a 36 x 24-foot warehouse and that "organizers should canvass Forbes territory and sell \$1,000 stock to warrant erecting one tank at that point."

On April 16, 1930, the Board voted to hire G.P. Gebhardt to truck gas and oil for six northwestern townships in the County at 2-3/10 cents per gallon.

On April 20, 1930, the Board voted to put up a building with office and driveway in "center north and south." On April 28, 1930, they were voting to put a desk in that building! Exciting? You bet it is, especially if you happened to be a part of the thirties! Luther Leet had to lend them \$100 at one point, and Ed Byer dug down in his pocket to pay for a shipment of gas.

The May minutes begin, "First Board meeting at the offices of the Corporation."

On January 6, 1931, H. E. Graber became manager in place of Mr. Oberman who resigned.

March 1931 saw the Board putting a pump at Silverleaf and also discussing buying the Fullerton Oil Station.

In October 1930 gas was 16¢ at the pump and 16²¢ on tank delivery.

In July 1934 Mr. Graber resigned and P. T. Brosz became manager. They also bought a hoist.

In March 1939 they voted to hire only local people.

In May of 1942 P. T. Brosz resigned as manager and Floyd Martilla became manager. Floyd had worked as bookkeeper and station attendant since 1934, and when he resigned in 1966 he had 33 years of service with the Company.

In March of 1958 the Board met with some Coldwater people regarding an installation there. Fifty patrons were there.

In July of 1959 they voted to set up LP plant-tank-truck tank and pumping equipment on railroad right of way. Ron Thompson became manager of this facility. It was in 1959 they began advertising over the Oakes radio station.

November 1961 — Meeting to discuss starting Farmers Union Bulk Oil Station at Ashley. In 1961 they also voted to buy the Quality Chevrolet quonset building.

June 1963 — With vote of confidence by stockholders, the Board made plans to build a new oil station.

In 1966 Floyd Martilla resigned as manager and Leo McCloskey was hired as manager. They voted to build a fertilizer facility.

September 1969 — Discussed establishment of a liquid fertilizer plant. It was in 1969 Richard Wolff was honored for eighteen years of service with the Oil Company.

August 1973 — The Board moved to adopt CENEX Credit Card System. They also installed a radio contact system.

In 1975 — Plans were discussed for a new building to be built across the street from the Oil Company and shop facility. They also gave \$500 to the Bicentennial Building Fund for a fair facility for Dickey County.

The 1970's saw the new Self-Service Station begin operation on Highway 281.

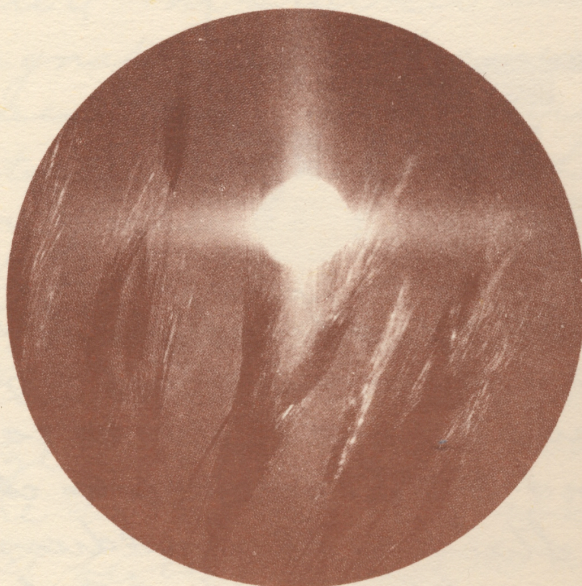
Donations from the Company to the community have been a constant thing ever since the beginning. We would not have space enough to detail the delegates sent to various conventions and on lobbying trips to Washington, D.C., the young people sent to camps and on other educational trips, and the education projects sponsored, the memorials and flowers sent, the huge amounts of food and beverages served on "Farmers Union Day" to the residents of the entire area served by the Company for members and non-members.

On March 1, 1978, Leo McCloskey resigned as manager, and in May of that year Arnold Burmeister became manager.

In the beginning — 1930 — the new Company was capitalized at \$20,000 (twenty thousand dollars)! Today the net worth of your Company's stock is \$1,807,000 (one million-eight hundred and seven thousand dollars)! Cash refunds and stocks retired amount to \$1,376,084 (one million three hundred seventy-six thousand eighty-four dollars)! This reflects 41 percent of all net savings have been paid back in cash since 1930! To pause and consider how much of this has remained in the County is to begin to get a feeling of just how much your Company has meant — not only to its stockholders, members, patrons and employees — but to every single person in Dickey County!

A new era is beginning and, to paraphrase one line of a favorite poem: "Here hath been dawning another new day. Think - wilt thou let it slip useless away?"





*Dying, you destroyed our death;
Rising, you restored our life.*

IN MEMORIUM

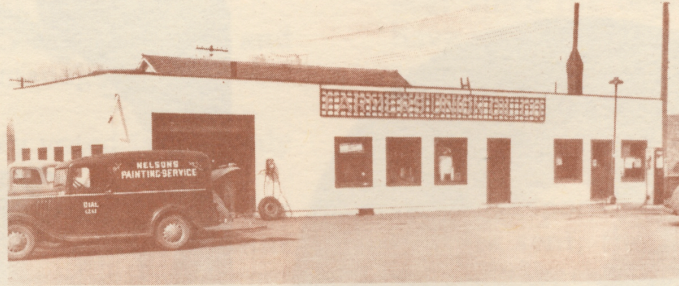
MERTON EARL BARDELL — Born July 27, 1917, Died March 29, 1980

Mert Bardell was a true giant in the Cooperative Movement. His heart, hands and brain were in constant use on behalf of the Co-ops because he was totally involved in what was to him, a way of life.

As Herb Pomplun said of Mert, "Mert was the catalyst that welded the various branches of the Organization together to form a harmonious whole. He worked with the managers, and because of him, there was a cohesion among them that made for good feelings and relationships."

He gave generously and completely of his time and energy, and because of this, the Co-ops will stand taller and stronger and be living monuments to him and those who, like him, were fully dedicated. So, his passing leaves no blank — he created too much to fill it.

Farmers Union
Bulk Oil Station organization meeting
Ellendale N. Dak Courthouse Feb. 8, 1930.



The meeting called by Stucker & Brown to formulate plans & means to start an oil station on the Farmers Union Plan was called to order by L. H. Byer and H. J. Oberman was chosen to act as secy. Mr. Stucker then addressed the gathering explaining the method to be pursued to organize as aforesaid a Bulk Oil station in Dickey county.

The next speaker was J. E. D. Brown and while he was talking Mr. Stucker circulated a petition among the audience to get subscribers of stock and succeeded in getting 34 names.

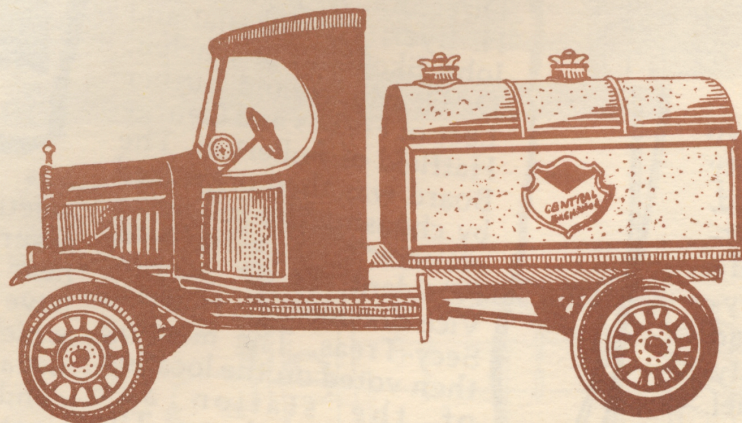
The meeting proceeded to elect a Board of Directors to serve until a permanent organization was later perfected.

The following gentlemen were named on said Board L. H. Byer, Geo Hatfield, D. D. Moore, Luther Leet, ^{Wm} Hokana and A. J. Jensen. Motion made that the rules be suspended and the secy be instructed to cast the vote for the persons thus named.

The Board organized by naming Geo Hatfield President, D. D. Moore V. President and L. H. Byer Secy. Treas.

Motion made & carried that First National Bank of Ellendale be made depository for the funds of the company, on motion made and carried Mr Stucker and Mr Brown were designated as salesmen of stock and as compensation were to receive 10% of \$27⁵⁰ share of stock. Motion made and carried that the name of this Co. be The Farmers Union Oil Co. Motion made & carried that the said business of the company be conducted at Ellendale, N. Dak. Motion made & carried that company be capitalized at \$20,000⁰⁰ and Par value of each share be \$25⁰⁰. Motion made & carried that Board be instructed to confer with Mr ^{John} Gronbeck relative to the Price he wanted for his Bulk oil equipment and to get experienced men to come out from Exchange to look over his Plant or any other that would be offered for sale. One motion made & carried meeting adjourned
Sine Die

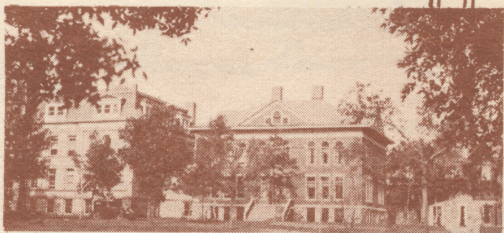
signed H. J. Oberman Secy
L. H. Byler Chairman.



DECADE QUOTES AND FACTS

John Wheelihan remarked:
"In 1933, 61 lb. wheat
brought 23¢ a bushel,
which bought less than a
gallon and a half of
gasoline."

In 1959, Thomas S.
Jenkins was President of
the State Normal and
Industrial School at
Ellendale.



In 1943 there were two
women on the County
Farmers Union Board,
Ethel Avery was Chair-
man and Gertrude
Marshall was Secretary-
Treasurer, but women had
been active on the County
Boards since 1941. Ethel
Avery was the first
County Junior Leader.

1930's — Dickey County
Leader — February 13, 1930

"The call of organizers
Stucker and Brown for a
meeting of the members of
the Farmers Union to meet
in Ellendale on February 8
to formulate plans and
means for establishing a
bulk oil station, was a
great success, judging
from the attendance and
the enthusiasm mani-
fested by those present,
according to H. J.
Oberman, who acted as
secretary for the meeting.

"L. H. Byer was
chosen as Chairman, and
after listening to addresses
by Messrs. Stucker and
Brown and also to remarks
by Standard Oil represen-
tative, the meeting got
down to the business of
organizing, and, as A. J.
Jensen put it in a talk
wherein he said that he
was always with farm
movements that had for
their objects the better-
ment of farmer's condi-
tions, he urged that the
meeting proceed at once to
organize, which remarks
were warmly received, and
the organization was at
once perfected by electing
the following as Board of
Directors: A. J. Jensen; L.
H. Byer; W. Hokana; and
John Skogland of Guelph,
D. D. Moore and Luther
Leet of Forbes and George
Hatfield of Fullerton. The
Board was then organized
by choosing the following
officers: George Hatfield,
President; D. D. Moore,
Vice President; L. H. Byer,
Secy-Treas. The meeting
then voted on the location
of the station and
Ellendale was chosen. The
Company will be known as
the Farmers Union Oil
Company.

1930's — Rex Hokana said
the Oil Company organi-
zers spent long hours
working and he remem-
bers his dad getting home
around 2:30 a.m. from the
meetings. He also remem-
bers grinding up Russian
thistles and adding
molasses for the cattle to
eat.



A large block of stock
was subscribed at the
meeting and it is an
assured fact that in the
near future, Ellendale will
have a new enterprise
which, with the Union's
usual businesslike way of
conducting its activities,
another business venture
will be established here, of
which Ellendale may well
feel proud."

Thurs., Mar. 27, 1930 —
Headlines from *The Dickey*
County Leader read:

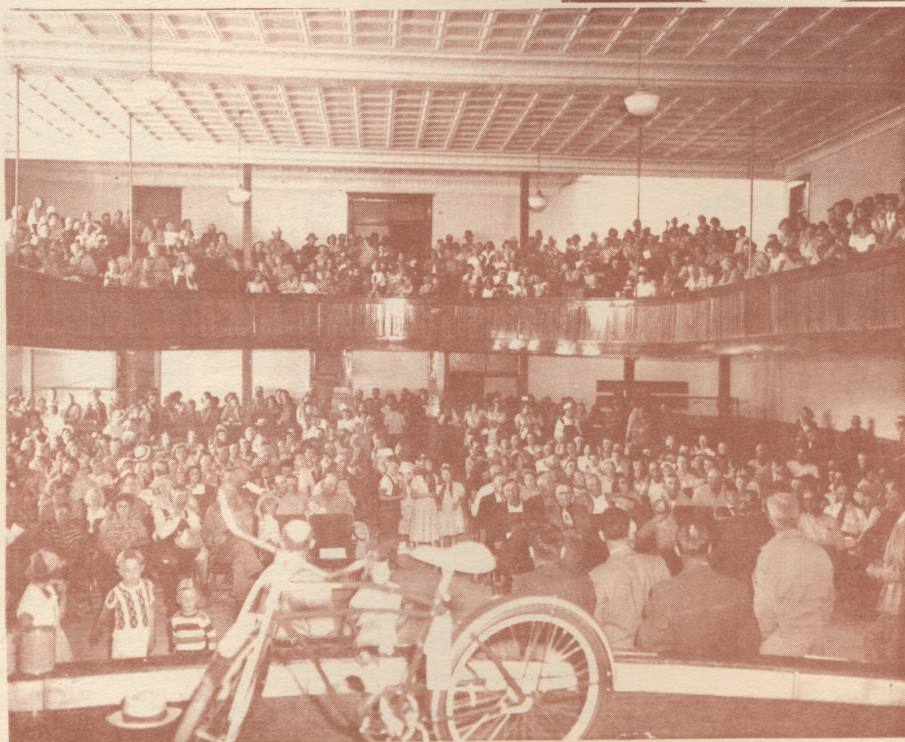
Farmers Union Oil
Company Officers
Named

A. J. Jensen Heads
Board: Talbott Gives
Fine Talk: Hope to
Have Sub-Station at
Forbes

At that time, H. J. Oberman said: "The farmers of Dickey County always extend to Charlie (Talbott) the glad hand of welcome, as he is a real fighting soldier in the field, and is certainly doing a great work for the farmers."

Stan Diemert talks about how Thor Sand, Eddie Christianson and Hafey Moore went out to sell Farmers Union Insurance. Farmers of the 40's bought \$10 certificates, more out of loyalty to their Union. Ralph Gentz was one of those first \$10-certificate

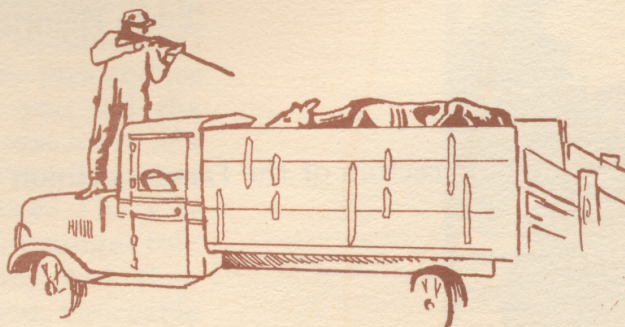
customers. That certificate is part of our history now. Stan marvels at the amount of loyalty and belief and trust it took for farmers living in or just coming out of the thirties to invest the small amount of cash they had or sign notes at that grim time.



A 1958 Ward Catalogue has women's and misses' cotton knit dresses for \$5.77. What happened to cotton? You could get a steel pressure cooker canner for \$19.86!



Floyd Martilla recalls farmers burning corn to heat their homes. It wasn't worth anything on the market. He also recalls Jack Holsinger buying livestock for the Government for one dollar per head, then taking them out and disposing of them.



OIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS ELLENDALE FARMERS UNION

February 8, 1930 — First Board of Directors - Temporary - Meeting held at the Courthouse

*L. H. Byer
George Hatfield
D. D. Moore
Luther Leet
William Hokana
A. J. Jensen

March 22, 1930 — Elected by Stockholders Meeting held at the Oddfellows Hall

A. J. Jensen — President
George Hatfield — Vice President
L. H. Byer — Secretary-Treasurer
Luther Leet
William Fleming
William Hokana
H. E. Jury

Friday, June 5, 1931 — Meeting held at the Oddfellows Hall (Total of 156 shares - 132 stockholders. Elected old Board for another year.

DIRECTORS FROM 1932—

H. E. Jury
Henry Strand
August Herberg
O. M. Stucker
Chris Hanson
W. W. Bardell
L. W. Whelan
L. Shannon
Fred Applequist
Otto Durheim
Chris Rempher

In 1937 the stockholders voted to divide into six Districts and each district to elect its own Director.

In 1938 motion was made and seconded to "Elect six Directors by Districts *and one at large.*"

L. H. Whelan was elected at large for one year — He held the at-large Directorship for ten years, being reelected each year.

DIRECTORS FROM 1938 TO 1980 —

Chris Speidel
*Alfred Kalbus
H. D. Collett
William Wheelihan
Merton Bardell
Mike Martin
*M. A. Jury
P. D. Avery
Martin Peterson
P. T. Brosz
*C. W. Bardell
*John Wheelihan
Walter Martinson
Emil Hokana
*Frank Uecker
*William Grueneich
*Adolph Husby
*Art Wall
*Rex Hokana
*Henry Quashnick
*Herb Pomplun
George Schaller
*Arlan Fiechtner
*Orryn Heine
*George Haussler
*Wayne Steinwand
*G. G. Gebhardt
*Eddie Heinrich

* — Living directors of the Farmers Union Oil Board

You remember, don't you? When the little house on the prairie with the half moon on the door was more prevalent than indoor plumbing? That situation existed well through the forties.

When there were almost no trees on the prairies and a fire was an event to generate both fright and frenzied action. The "organized" fire department" was a bucket brigade of family members and neighbors—unless it was an unusually dry year? Plows? Firebreaks?

When the Farmers Union Oil Co. served lunch upstairs in the old Opera House? It wasn't very convenient for the ladies-but they managed beautifully?



When the threshers came and stayed until the threshing was done—and stayed, and stayed, and stayed and stayed—and it just wouldn't quit raining just enough to wet the straw? Bread and rolls and pies and cakes came out of the ovens late the night before or at the crack of dawn or before?

When the box socials were held at the old school houses and they auctioned off the lunch boxes? Homemade pies and ice cream were featured and you did the Waltz and Polka? Ellendale was more of a "dance town" then. New Year's parties and dances in the Opera House? The "Co-Op Shoppers?" Some of you younger folk won't remember that group but they certainly produced some good, danceable music? How many of you remember the

name of their leader? What was the name of the singer?

When people had a time for other people and there was a warmth and a friendliness we always find where Farmers Union people gather. You worked together and, above all, you prayed together—because it was your belief in your God first and your family second that gave you the strength, courage and incentive to build "from scratch" this Company. Remember? Of course you do? How tragic it would be if this all became just "history".

When everyone came to town on Saturday? Many rushed to get ready so they could get a good parking place. The sidewalks were full of groups of people visiting and there were those who sat in their cars and people stopped to talk. There was a great deal of German spoken but you could hear other languages as well. Much business was transacted on the sidewalk and while shopping in the stores. Remember?

When you took a lantern to the barn to check on the new calf?

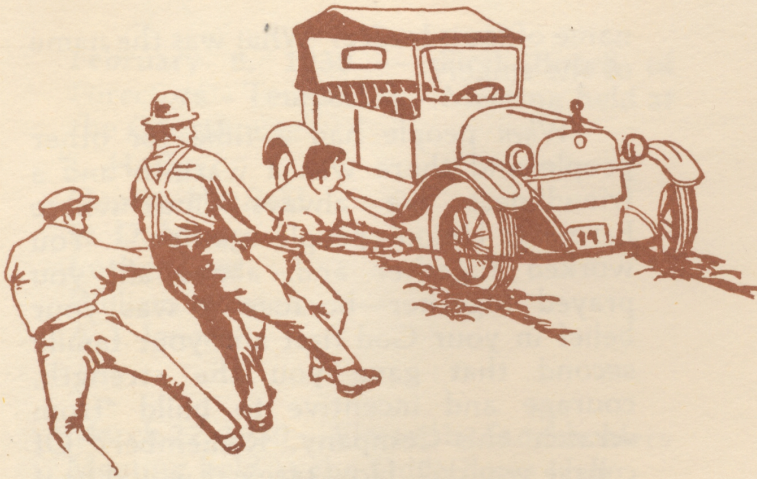
When you could go almost anywhere on the train?

When there were sixteen banks in Dickey County?

Remember?



COMPANY EMPLOYEES OVER FIFTY-YEAR SPAN

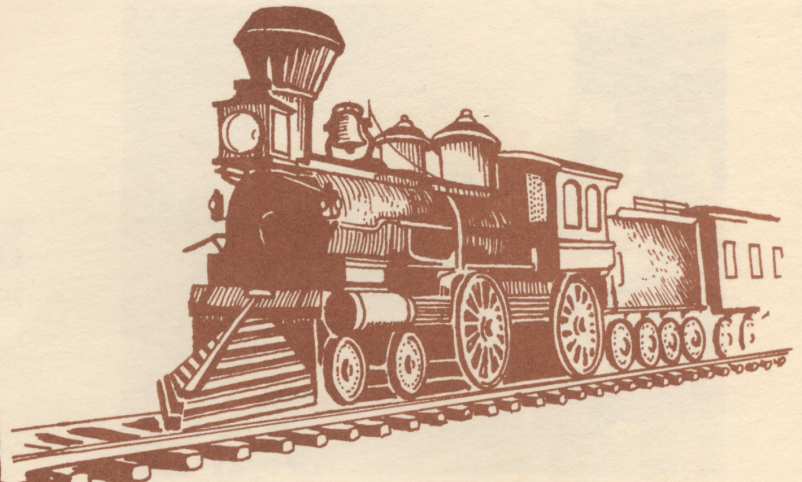


1930's

Levi West — Driver
G. P. Gebhardt — Driver
Oscar Hatfield — Driver
Joe Townsend — Driver
Christ Stern
"Bat" Brown — Monango driver

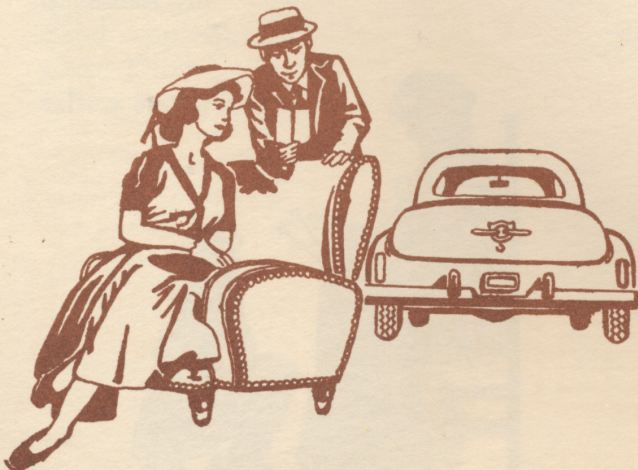
1940's

Joyce McGinnis — Bookkeeper
Carl Maack (late 40's and 50's)
Gottlieb Nell
Linville Townsend
Morgan Applequist
James Walsh
Laroy Bobzien
Herb Pomplun
Edward Van Middlesworth
Ervin Gesme
Gilbert Nicholson



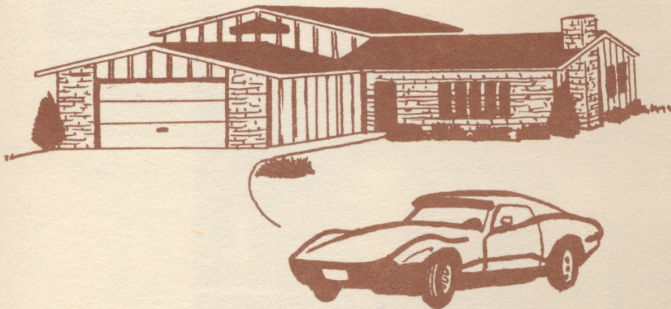
1950's

Wallace Moore
Jacob Rempher
Eleanor Neuman — Bookkeeper
Merle Sharpe — Bookkeeper ('50-'65)
Willis Brady (50's and 60's)
Arthur Gebhardt (50's, 60's and 70's)



1960's

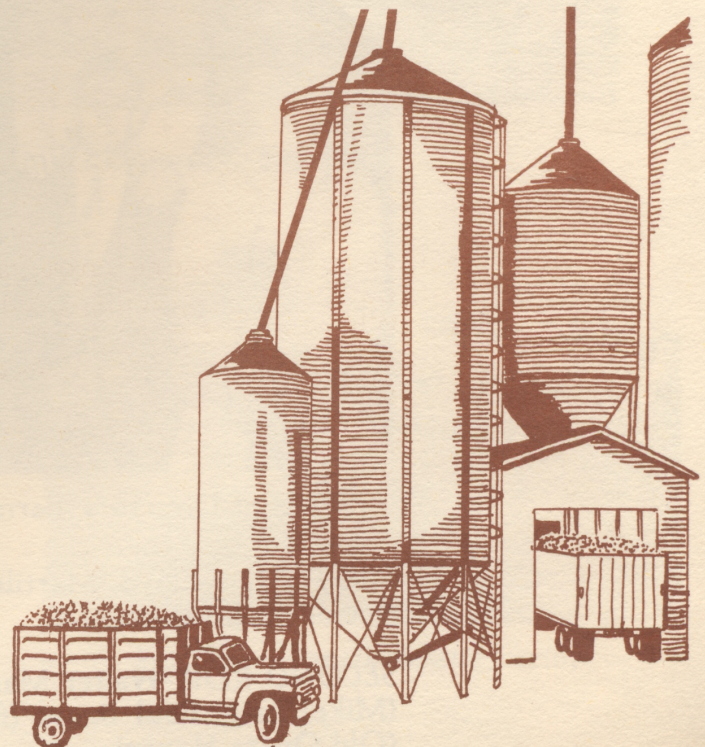
Ed Frederick LP (60-s and 70's)
Herman Trautmann (60's and 70's)
Bob Radke (60's and 70's)
Louie Ketterling — Station Supervisor (60's and 70's)
Marie Smith — Bookkeeper (60's and 70's)
Ray Aman — Driver (60's and 70's)
Albert Wallenvein — Fertilizer Plant (60's and 70's)
Fred Nitschke — Fertilizer Plant (60's and 70's)
Louis Haussler — Monango Driver (60's and 70's)
Virgil Anderson — Fertilizer Plant (60's and 70's)



Because of changing bookkeeping procedures throughout the years, some employees may not have been listed, although we give a hearty "thank-you" to all our past and present employees.

1970's

Eugene Burlingame — Truck
LeRoy Robb — Propane Truck
Donna Johnson — Bookkeeper
Kenton Bertsch — LP
Ivan Schlinker — Store
Leonard Messner — LP
Curtis Hillstrom — Fertilizer Plant
Mary Veland — Store
Steve Ketterling — Station
Norman Hagen — Station





LEE BYER

Born January 25, 1899 of Ed Byer and Alma Melamart Byer. He had one brother and one half brother. The Byers lived on a farm Northwest of Ellendale. Lee's father was a firm believer in co-ops, so it was natural for Lee to take hold and work to create the proposed Farmers Union Oil Company. He was Chairman of the organizing meeting and served on the Board of Directors until March 7, 1933, when he resigned, being Secretary-Treasurer at the time. He has remained interested and active in the Oil Company affairs throughout his life and is now the only living member of the original organizing group.



Board of Directors Farmers Union Oil Company 1955

FIRST ROW-Floyd Martilla, Mgr., Coral Bardell, Chris Speidel, John Wheelihan

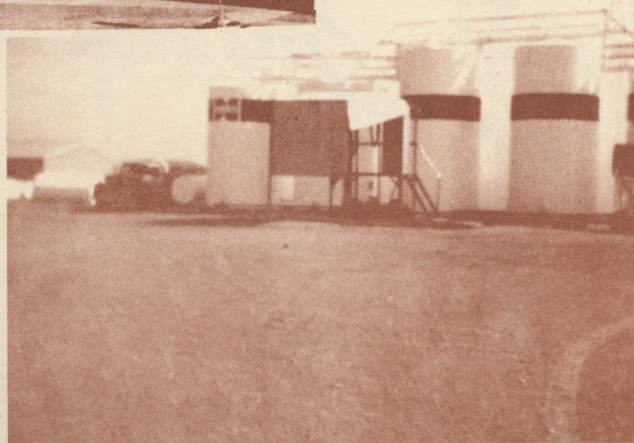
SECOND ROW-Walter Martinson, Martin Peterson, M.A. (Mike) Jury, Paul Brosz (former Mgr.), City Auditorium (Old Opera House)



Farm Store/Home Center



Self Service Station



Tank Farm



Farmers Union Oil Station

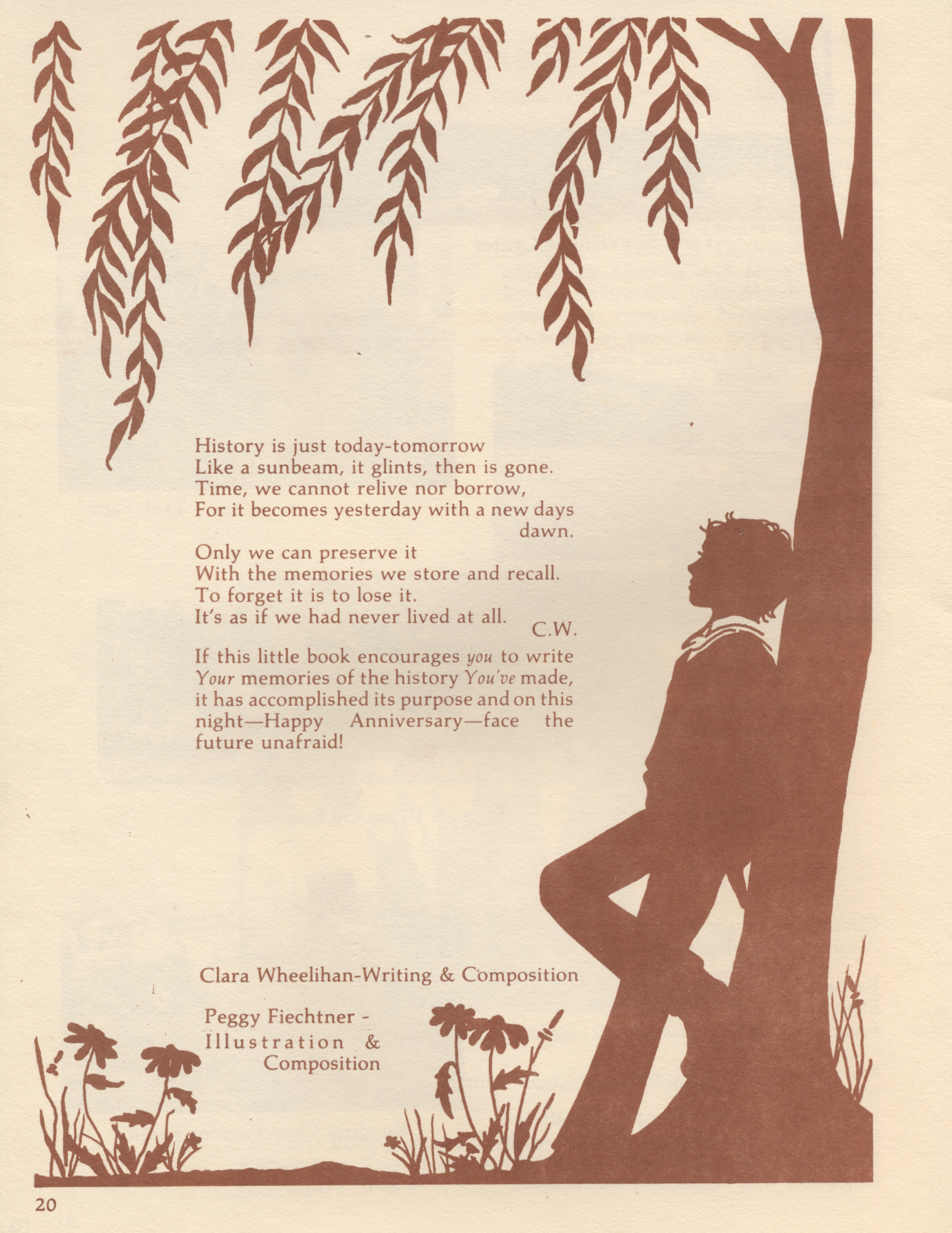
Committee for the 50th
Anniversary Celebration

Barbara Heine—Chairman
Ellen Fiechtner
Joyce Gebhart
Wayne Steinwand
Warren Hokana
Mary Veland

With thanks to Herb Pomplun, Chairman
of the Farmers Union Board, Arnie
Burmeister, Manager, and all of the
employees who helped and encouraged.



Fertilizer Plant/Propane Facility



History is just today-tomorrow
Like a sunbeam, it glints, then is gone.
Time, we cannot relive nor borrow,
For it becomes yesterday with a new days
dawn.

Only we can preserve it
With the memories we store and recall.
To forget it is to lose it.
It's as if we had never lived at all. C.W.

If this little book encourages *you* to write
Your memories of the history *You've* made,
it has accomplished its purpose and on this
night—Happy Anniversary—face the
future unafraid!

Clara Wheelihan-Writing & Composition

Peggy Fiechtner -
Illustration &
Composition

*God Bless
America*



1930

Ellendale, ND Cenex

1980

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Herbert Pomplun
Vice-President - Orryn Heine
Secretary-Treasurer - Rex Hokana
Director G. G. Gebhardt
Director Eddie Heinrich
Director Arlan Fiechtner
Director Art Wall

EMPLOYEES

Dee Albertson	Annette Mastel
Ray Aman	Leonard Messner
Tim Anderson	Ida Nishek
Gordon Barrett	Robert Radtke
Sheila Brauer	Colleen Rithmiller
Arnold Burmeister	LeRoy Robb
Phil Burmeister	Robert Scrabeck
Roy Fuchs	Marie Smith
Art Gebhardt	Robert Stairs
Peter Groves	Tony Thares
Norman Hagen	Mary Veland
Jean Hill	Ella Wallace
Donna Johnson	Albert Wallenvein
Louie Ketterling	Derril Wedell
Paulet Kiefer	

COMMEMORATIVE BOOK COMMITTEE

Clara Wheelihan
Peggy Fiechtner
Richard Mysse

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Ellen Fiechtner
Joyce Gebhardt
Barbara Heine
Mary Veland
Wayne Steinwand
Warren Hokana

National Anthem

Tilford Kroshus

Invocation

Rev. Leo Deitimeyer

Welcome
Master of Ceremonies

Herbert Pomplun
Chairman of the Board

Welcome to Ellendale

Vic Steinwand

Comments

Floyd Martilla
Manager 1942 to 1966

Leo McKloskey
Manager 1966 to 1978

John Broste
*1st Vice Chairman
CENEX Board of Directors*

Joe Larson
*Chairman
CENEX Board of Directors*

Arthur Link
Governor of North Dakota

Introduction of the Board of Directors

Introduction of the Surviving Organizer and
Original Stockholders

Introduction of Employees

Arnold Burmeister
Manager

Closing Remarks

Stanley Moore
*President
ND Farmers Union*

Introduction of Committees

Entertainment

Tilford Kroshus